THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 15th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Supply of Sangati at Gruel Centres in Rayalaseema.

* 86 *Q.*—SRI T. NAGI REDDI (on behalf of Sri N. Sivarami Reddi) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a proposal to substitute Sangati (solid form of food) in the place of gruel at gruel centres in Rayalaseema was turned down by the Government; and

(*b*) if so, on what grounds?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The quality of the gruel originally supplied was, however, improved by adopting a new recipe which was tried out and found to be excellent."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, of the warnings given by medical men that the bad quality of gruel, a substitute for food, would lead to dangerous diseases like cholera? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It does not apply to the gruel supplied in these centres, Sir."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Sir, in order to supply grain to the gruel centres, how much grain has been collected from the public by the Provincial Famine Relief Organization? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—Notice, Sir."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that Rs. 2-8-0 per day is spent in a gruel centre to feed 100 persons in Palnad taluk of Guntur district? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is all a question of details, and I cannot answer it."

SRI LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that while solid food was given in famine relief centres in the 19th century, it is now replaced by watery gruel in the year 1952? "

[15th July 1952

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I was not born in the 19th century. The gruel supplied is quite good."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has not answered the question. He answers by saying that the gruel that is now supplied is superior to the gruel that was supplied previously. I would like the Hon. Minister to answer the specific question whether there was a proposal to substitute Sangati for the liquid food, and whether the Government turned down that proposal? If so, why have the Government turned down the proposal? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The question of supplying Sangati was discussed, and it was not adopted for two reasons, namely, (1) it is a little more costly, and (2) in the distribution of Sangati, the Government thought that there was scope for abuse."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Will the Government consider giving rations in lieu of gruel to those people who are entitled to such gruel, because it will avoid expenditure on distribution of gruel? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not know whether the people who take advantage of the gruel centres will thank the hon. Member for his suggestion."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will open more gruel centres for the famine-stricken people in Palnad? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Wherever there is necessity, more gruel centres are being opened."

SRI M. NARAYANASWAMI :—" What is the amount spent for gruel per head per day and what is the amount to be spent for Sangati per head per day? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The gruel rate works out to 9 pies per head. It has now been raised to an amount varying from 1 anna to 1½ annas. For Sangati, it may be 50 or 75 per cent more."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that a sum of Rs. 16 is sanctioned for every gruel centre maintained in Gingee taluk? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—' May I know, Sir, the Tamil name for ' Sangati '? "

(No answer.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that when more relief works are opened in the famine-stricken areas, particularly in those areas where there are a number of gruel centres,

15th July 1952]

there will be less number of persons attending the gruel centres, and, if so, will the Government consider opening more relief works? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The first part of the proposition is correct. The other part will be considered."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" How many gruel centres are there and how much money is spent on them, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Notice."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know, Sir, who is that gentleman who tried this gruel now and approved of it. Last time it was Mr. Munshi."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The gentlemen are those who go to the gruel centres and take gruel."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The Hon. Minister was kind enough to agree that if more works were undertaken to help the people, there would be less number of people attending the gruel centres. If he undertakes to give more work, would he also undertake to give better gruel at the gruel centres when the number will be less? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It will be considered, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister in reply to the question put by Mr. Nagi Reddi, whether bad quality of gruel would not lead to the spread of diseases like cholera, said that such medical warnings did not apply to the gruel centres. Thereby he conceded that medical warnings had been given. I would like to know specifically to which areas the medical warnings applied."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am not aware of it, Sir. If hygienic conditions are absent, then it will affect me and the hon. Gentleman also."

Construction of a bridge at Kannayangode ferry in North Malabar.

* 87 *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to construct a bridge at Kannayangode ferry in North Malabar?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI.—" There is no proposal at present to construct a bridge at Kannayangode ferry in North Malabar."

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that this is a ferry that has to be crossed by people of more than 20 villages to reach the Quilandy sub-taluk, will the Government consider the desirability of constructing a bridge? "